

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, lines 7-9 have been amended as follows:

The term “compression-type” refers to a structure of two elements that are extended from each other in use, thus imposing compression on the elements.

Page 2, lines 8-17 have been amended as follows:

Referring to Figure 11, one tooth 96 is inserted in one slot 64. The lever 82 is in a locking position. The detents 78 are engaged with the ratchets 98. The wheel 90 cannot be rotated counterclockwise. Thus, the internal tube 62 cannot be pulled from the external tube [[64]] 66.

Referring to Figure 12, one tooth 96 is inserted in one slot 64. The lever 82 is in a releasing position. The cams 88 push the locking element 76 so as to disengage the detents 78 from the ratchets 98. The wheel 90 can be rotated. Thus, the internal tube 62 can be pulled from or drawn back into the external tube [[64]] 66.

Page 3, lines 1 and 2 have been amended as follows:

The present invention is therefore intended to obviate or at least alleviate the problems encountered in the prior art.

Page 4, lines 1-3 have been amended as follows:

Other objects objectives, advantages and novel features of the invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description in conjunction with the attached drawings.

Page 5, lines 14-19 have been amended as follows:

Referring to Figure 1, according to a first embodiment of the present invention, a telescopic support 1 includes an external tube 2, an elongated member shown in the preferred form of an internal tube 3 and a driving and locking device 4. The internal tube 3 is inserted in the external tube 2. The driving and locking device 4 is used to extend the external tube 2 from the internal tube 3 and avoid the external tube 2 drawing back into the internal tube 3.

Page 6, line 24 through page 7, line 6 have been amended as follows:

The driving element 43 is pivotally installed on the terminal flat portions of the frame 41 by means of a shaft 46. The driving element 43 includes a first section formed as a jaw 431 and a second section formed as a lever 432. On the jaw 431 are formed several ratchets 434 for engagement with the ratchets 31. A spring 433 is provided between one terminal flat portion of the frame 41 and the jaw 431 of the driving element 43 so as to bias the driving element 43 in a direction so that the ratchet 434 are kept from the ratchets 31. The lever 431 is formed with a convex portion 435 for contact with the lever [[421]] 422 of the locking element 42.

Page 7, lines 16-23 have been amended as follows:

Referring to Figure 4, to have the pad 32 firmly contact the wall, ceiling or floor and the pad 22 contact the other wall, floor or ceiling, and the internal tube 3 [[need]] needs to be pulled from the external tube 2 by a small amount. To this end, the driving element 43 is pivoted in a first direction thereof so that the ratchets 434 are brought into engagement with some of the ratchets 31. The driving element 43 is further pivoted in the first direction so that the jaw 431 moves the internal tube 3 from the external tube 2.

Page 8, line 6 through page 9, line 2 have been amended as follows:

Figures 6-9 show a telescopic support 1' according to a second embodiment of the present invention. The second embodiment is identical to the first embodiment except for four points. Firstly, the internal tube 3 of the second embodiment includes an additional series of ratchets 31. Secondly, the second embodiment includes a driving and locking device 4' instead of the driving and locking device 4. The driving and locking device 4' includes an additional set of locking elements 42 and 43. The additional set of locking elements 42 and 43 are for engagement with the additional series of ratchets 31. Thirdly, the additional driving and locking device 4' includes two plates 41' instead of the frame 41. Fourthly, the driving element 43 of each set includes a rack 47 extending from the lever [[431]] 432. Fifthly, on one plate 41' is rotationally mounted a pinion 44 having teeth 441 engaged with the racks 47. Thus, as **selective** one set of locking elements 42 and 43 is operated, the other set of locking elements 42 and 43 is pivoted too.

The above-mentioned embodiments are directed to compression-type telescopic supports. However, the present invention can be applied to tension-type supports. To this end, the ratchets 31, 424 and 434 must all be arranged in an opposite orientation. Accordingly, the locking element 42 and the driving element 43 must be switched in position. Moreover, the tube 2 and the ~~elongated member~~ internal tube 3 are hooked to two walls instead of abutted against two walls.